A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT STOLE HIS SIGHT. BUT, INCREDIBLY, IT ENDOWED YOUNG MATT MURDOCK WITH RADAR VISION AND HEIGHTENED SENSES. ARMED ONLY WITH HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BILLY CLUB, AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE, MATT BATTLES INJUSTICE AS A CRIMSON-CLAD GLADIATOR!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

LAST NIGHT HAD BEEN VERY TYPICAL.
AFTER DINNER, HER FATHER WASHED THE DISHES, HER MOTHER WENT TO WORK, AND ANGEL DID HER HOMEWORK IN HER ROOM WITH THE TV ON, EVEN THOUGH SHE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO.
AT 9:30, HER DAD TOLD HER IT WAS TIME FOR BED. HE SAID THAT ANGEL WATCHED TOO MUCH TV.
BEFORE ANGEL FELL ASLEEP, SHE SAW HER FATHER CARRYING SOME RAGS AND A CAN OF GASOLINE.
SO--HE WAS FINALLY GOING TO REMOVE THOSE KITCHEN TILES HER MOTHER HAD BEEN NAGGING HIM ABOUT.
LAST NIGHT HAD BEEN SO VERY TYPICAL.
THEN THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN.

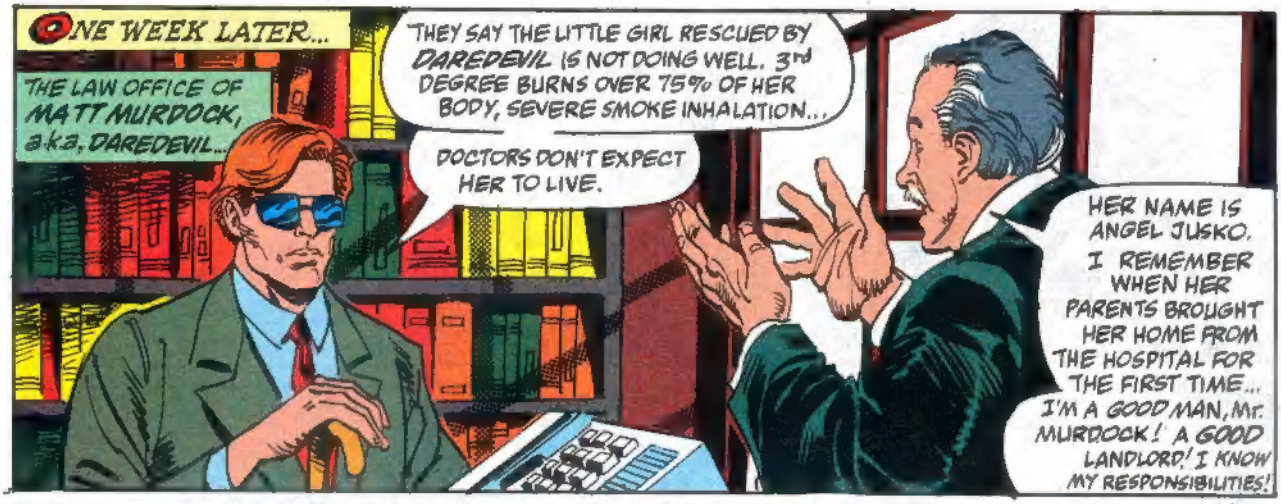
A SEASON FOR TEARS

MINDY NEWELL	MIKE HARRIS	DON HUDSON	RICK PARKER	GEORGE ROUSSOS	GLENN HERDLING	TOM DEFALCO
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERING	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

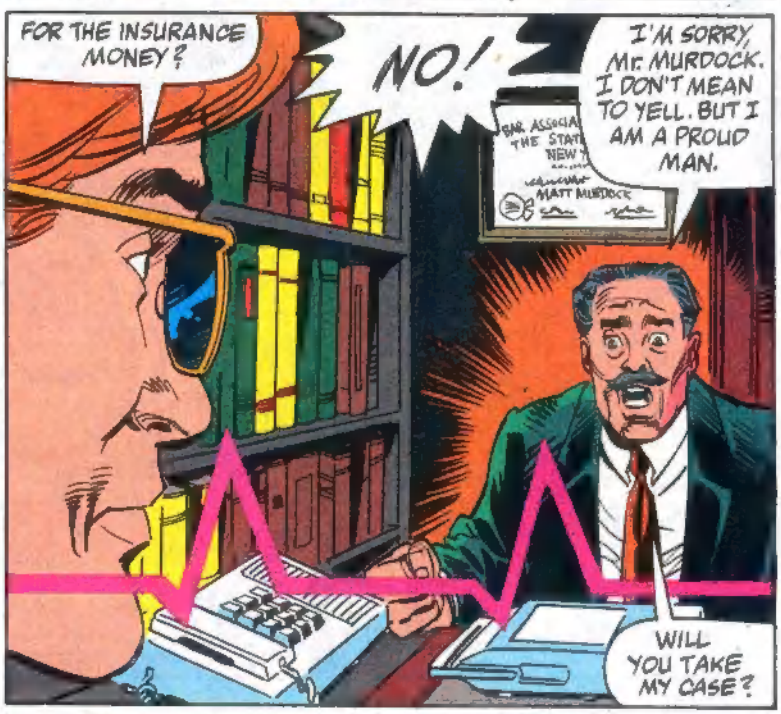
DAREDEVIL® VS. VAPORA™ VOL. 1, No. 1. Published by MARVEL COMICS. Gerard Calabrese, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Copyright © 1993, 1996 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. DAREDEVIL (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. The stylized G is a registered trademark of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association. FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE OR ANY OTHER MARVEL CUSTOM PUBLISHING PROJECT, CONTACT MARVEL COMICS CUSTOM PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT at (212) 696-0808. Printed in the U.S.A.

HE IS DAREDEVIL, THE CRIMSON CRUSADER OF HELL'S KITCHEN.
SOME ALSO CALL HIM THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR.
BUT ALL BRAVE MEN ARE AFRAID.
ENHANCED AUDITORY SENSE PICKS UP THE SOUNDS OF CRUMBLING BRICK AND PLASTER BENEATH THE ROAR OF FLAME.
BLAAASHH
HYPERSENSITIVE SKIN FEELS A SLIGHT BREEZE. OLFACTORY NERVES FLARE IN RESPONSE TO A WHIFF OF FRESH, CLEAN AIR.
RADAR SENSE CONFIRMS IT. A WALL OF GLASS. WINDOWS. A WAY OUT.
BEHIND HIM, THE BLAZING CREMATORIUM. IN FRONT OF HIM A DROP OF 20 FEET TO THE STREET.
ALONE, IT WOULD BE NOTHING. A PUDDLE-JUMP. BUT HE IS NOT ALONE.
THE GIRL IS UNCONSCIOUS, BARELY BREATHING. HER HEARTBEAT IS WEAK, BUT STEADY.
CRADLING HIS CARGO, SHIELDING HER FROM THE WORST OF THE FLAME AND HEAT, HE READIES THEM BOTH FOR FLYING SHARDS AND SPLINTERING TIMBERS.
KKRAA
ACK

SECONDS LATER...
SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
BOBBY, START A DRIP, LACTATED RINGERS, KVO. AND O² AT 2 LITERS.
CALL FOR THE 'COPTER, TOM?
YEAH, YOU'D BETTER.
IS SHE GOING TO MAKE IT?
HARD TO SAY. LITTLE ONES LIKE THIS...
BUT KIDS ARE TOUGH. THEY SURPRISE YOU.
I HOPE SO.
STRANGE. SOMEONE IS LAUGHING. SOMEONE IS ENJOYING THIS?
THERE IT IS AGAIN. COMING FROM ABOVE...
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
DIE DIE PAIN PAIN DIE DIE PAIN PAIN
RADAR SENSE SAYS SHE'S THERE, THEN SHE ISN'T. LIKE SMOKE, BLOWING IN THE WIND.
IF THAT LITTLE GIRL LIVES, DAREDEVIL, IT'LL BE THANKS TO YOU.
DID EVERYONE GET OUT OF THERE, FIREMAN?
EVERYONE WHO'S STILL ALIVE.


ONE WEEK LATER...
THE LAW OFFICE OF MATT MURDOCK, a.k.a. DAREDEVIL...
THEY SAY THE LITTLE GIRL RESCUED BY DAREDEVIL IS NOT DOING WELL. 3rd DEGREE BURNS OVER 75% OF HER BODY, SEVERE SMOKE INHALATION...
DOCTORS DON'T EXPECT HER TO LIVE.
HER NAME IS ANGEL JUSKO. I REMEMBER WHEN HER PARENTS BROUGHT HER HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL FOR THE FIRST TIME... I'M A GOOD MAN, Mr. MURDOCK! A GOOD LANDLORD! I KNOW MY RESPONSIBILITIES!

WHY WOULD THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ACCUSE ME OF ARSON? HOW COULD I BURN DOWN MY OWN BUILDING?!


FOR THE INSURANCE MONEY?
NO!
I'M SORRY, Mr. MURDOCK. I DON'T MEAN TO YELL. BUT I AM A PROUD MAN.
MATT MURDOCK
WILL YOU TAKE MY CASE?

YES, Mr. RUTKOWSKI, I WILL.
GOOD. GOOD. I WAS TOLD YOU WERE THE MAN TO COME TO.

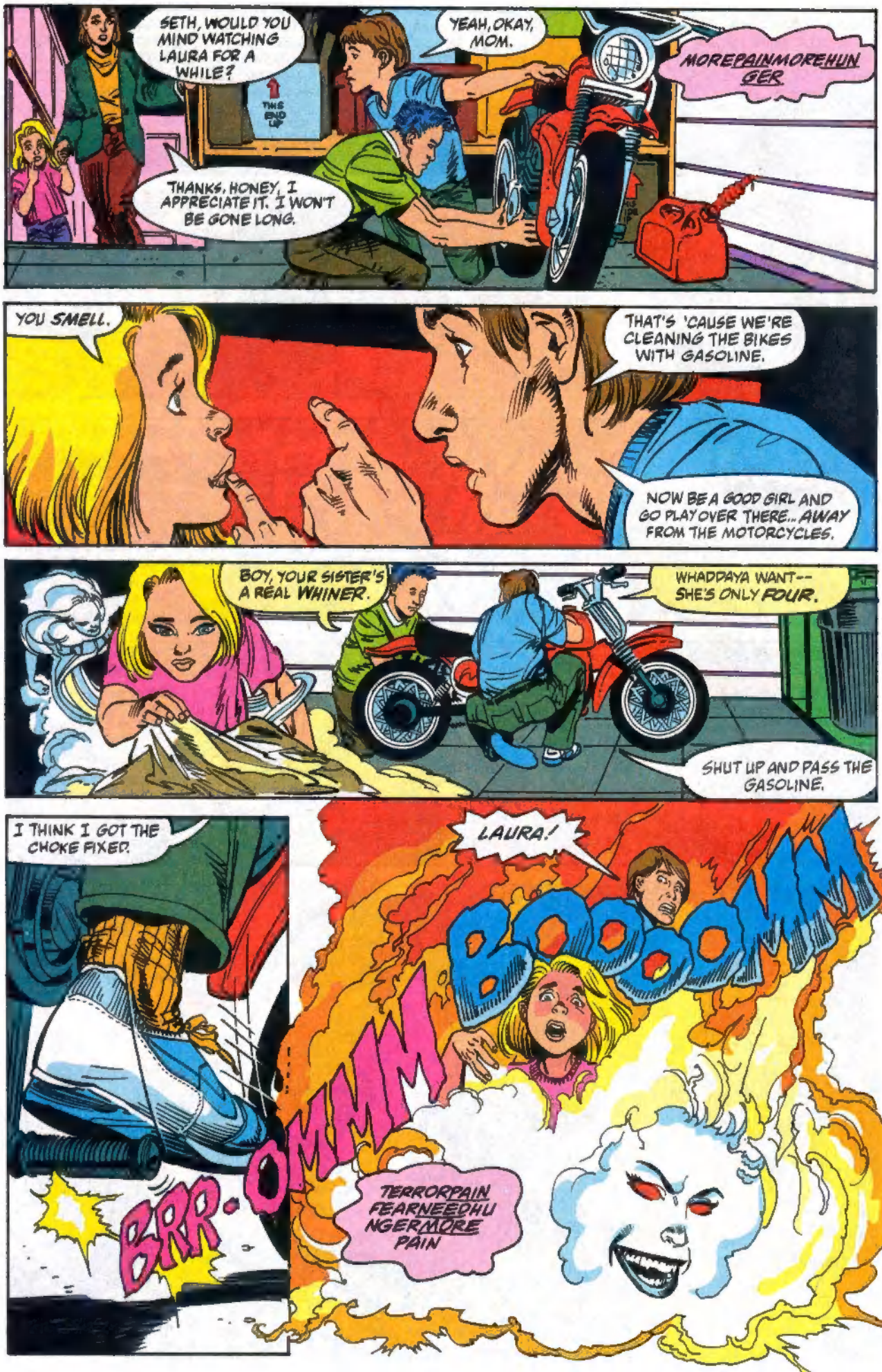
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO JAIL, Mr. MURDOCK.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, Mr. RUTKOWSKI.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

HEARTBEAT A LITTLE FAST, BUT HE'S ANGRY, NOT SCARED. HE MEANT WHAT HE SAID. VOICE DIDN'T QUAVER, DIDN'T SKIP A BEAT.
HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
HARD TO BELIEVE ANYBODY SURVIVED THIS.
THAT'S EVEN HARDER TO BELIEVE.
I'VE SEEN WORSE.
SO EXACTLY WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR, MR. MURDOCK...
ANYTHING THAT'LL PROVE MY CLIENT DIDN'T COMMIT ARSON.
YOU MEAN WHAT STARTED IT, LEFT-OVER MATCHES, THAT SORT OF THING?
I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF SOME KIND OF GASOLINE VAPOR.
YOU CAN SMELL IT? YOU A VIETNAM VET? THAT HOW YOU WERE BLINDED?
NO.
NOT MANY PEOPLE COULD PICK IT UP WITH ALL THIS SMOKE DAMAGE. VETS CAN, 'CAUSE IT SMELLS LIKE NAPALM. YOU SMELL A JUNGLE ON FIRE WITH NAPALM, YOU DON'T FORGET IT.
SO, OFFICER PACIFICO, WHAT HAS FORENSICS SHOWN? WAS THIS FIRE STARTED BY GASOLINE... GASOLINE VAPOR?
'FRAID SO. NOT GOOD FOR YOUR CLIENT, IS IT?
THAT DEPENDS. CAN YOU TELL ME ANYTHING MORE?
WELL, GASOLINE FUMES ARE HEAVIER THAN AIR, THEY MOVE LIKE SOME INVISIBLE FOG.
WHEN THOSE FUMES COME IN CONTACT WITH SOMETHING LIKE A PILOT LIGHT IN A STOVE, OR A CLOTHES DRYER, OR A WATER HEATER--
I'VE SEEN CASES WHERE FUMES TRAVEL DOWN TO AN IGNITION SOURCE IN THE BASEMENT.
WELL, THEN YOU GOT TROUBLE.
ANYTHING COULD HAVE SET THIS OFF, MR. MURDOCK. A CANDLE, A CIGARETTE, EVEN A SPARK FROM A LIGHT BULB.

THAT LITTLE GIRL, ANGEL JUSKO, SHE'S NOT DOING WELL. DOCTORS DON'T HAVE MUCH HOPE.
YEAH, IT'S WORST WHEN KIDS ARE INVOLVED.
THERE'S BEEN A RASH OF KIDS GETTING BURNED LATELY.
ANY REASON WHY?
WHO KNOWS? THESE THINGS SEEM TO RUN IN CYCLES.
A SHIVER RUNS DOWN HIS SPINE, TICKLING HIS COCCYX AND RAISING THE HACKLES ON HIS NECK.
THERE IS A PRESENCE HERE. THE SAME THING HE FELT BEFORE.
I SEE YOU!
YOU WON'T HURT ANYONE ELSE? I WON'T LET YOU!
IT'S TIED INTO THIS FIRE SOMEHOW. INTO ANGEL JUSKO'S PAIN.
YOU TALKING TO ME?
DON'T YOU SEE IT?
IT'S SOME TYPE OF VAPOROUS-THING,-- A VAPORA.
DID I-- SEE...?!
NEVER MIND. IT'S GONE NOW. PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION.
THE CREATURE CONTINUES ITS QUEST.

THOUGH IT IS NOT HUMAN, IT IS A LIVING THING, CUT FROM THE PATTERNS OF HUMANITY.
THOUGH IT HAS NO BRAIN, IT IS KNOWLEDGEABLE, AWARE OF HUMAN CARELESSNESS, FEEDING ON HUMAN MISERY AND ANGUISH. LIKE A GENIE IN A LAMP, IT EMERGES FROM IT'S METAL HOME SEEKING AN OUTLET TO GAIN STRENGTH.
AH-GOO
GASOLINE
NEEDS PUMPING...
GUM ON THE NEW CARPET. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD THAT KID NOT TO CHEW GUM IN HERE...
GURGLE HEE-HEE CHKIKI!
... DESIRE PUSHING...
BETWEEN YOUR SISTER'S GUM, YOUR SPIT-UP AND YOUR FATHER'S COFFEE CUPS ALL OVER THE HOUSE, I CAN'T GET A BREAK!
...WANTS PULSATING WITH HUNGER...
GASOLINE
STUPID LIGHTER. NEVER WORKS RIGHT
KCHIK KCHIK
BOOOM
HUNGERFEEDNEEDMOREPAIN...
WAAAAAHHH!!
THE CREATURE FEEDS, THEN MOVES ON...


SETH, WOULD YOU MIND WATCHING LAURA FOR A WHILE?
THIS END UP
YEAH, OKAY, MOM.
MOREPAINMOREHUNGER
THANKS, HONEY, I APPRECIATE IT. I WON'T BE GONE LONG.
YOU SMELL.
THAT'S 'CAUSE WE'RE CLEANING THE BIKES WITH GASOLINE.
NOW BE A GOOD GIRL AND GO PLAY OVER THERE... AWAY FROM THE MOTORCYCLES.
BOY, YOUR SISTER'S A REAL WHINER.
WHADDAYA WANT-- SHE'S ONLY FOUR.
SHUT UP AND PASS THE GASOLINE.
I THINK I GOT THE CHOKE FIXED.
BRR-OMMM
LAURA!
BOOOOOMM
TERRORPAIN FEARNEEDHUNGERMORE PAIN

DON'T SWEAT IT, PAL, I GOT IT UNDER CONTROL.
NO, DON'T--!
HISSSPAT
YOU IDIOT! WATER AND GASOLINE DON'T MIX YOU ONLY SPREAD IT!
WHERE'S LAURA?
LAURA!
HEEHEELOTSOFPAINLOTSOFFEARHEEHEE
PAINDEATHNEEDMOREGROWBIG STRONGTERRORPAINHUNGERGROW BIGGERBIGGER
OH, GOD, I CAN'T SEE HER...TOO MUCH SMOKE.
WE GOTTA COUGH GET OUTTA HERE, SETH! CALL THE FIRE DEPAR--COUGH
LAURA COUGH LISTEN TO ME! GET COUGH DOWN, BABY! COVER COUGH-COUGH YOUR FACE!
PAINDEATHNEED MOREGROWBIG STRONGTERROR PAINHUNGERGR OWBIGGERBIG BIGGERBIGGER

THE AIR IS EXTRAORDINARILY CLEAR TODAY. THE NOISES OF THE CITY, FADE TO MUFFLED ECHOES MIXING WITH THE WILD CRIES OF SEAGULLS OVER THE HARBOR.
THERE IS A SUDDEN SCENT OF NAPALMED SMOKE COMING FROM THE SOUTHEAST... THE WATER-FRONT.
IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING. JUST THE SPUTTERING OF SOMEONE'S OUTBOARD MOTOR.
BUT THE SMELL OF NAPALM IS GROWING STRONGER. MEMORIES FLASHBACK TO YESTERDAY'S SEARCH THROUGH ASHES AND CHARRED REMAINS.
MEMORIES OF GASOLINE ODOR THAT HUNG OVER THE APARTMENT HOUSE LIKE A SHROUD.
MEMORIES OF ANGEL JUSKO, HOOKED UP TO A RESPIRATOR, HANGING ON TO HER LIFE BY THE THREADS OF MULTIPLE I.V. LINES.
LAURA!!... OH, GOD, OH, GOD... HNH-HNHH... SETHH... PLEEESE... HNH--*COUGH!--HNNNHHH...
PAINTERROR HURTDEATH
C'MON, SETH, WE GOTTA GET HELP!
NO WAY, I'M NOT LEAVING HER!
LAUUUURAAA!
HEY, SETH! LOOK!!

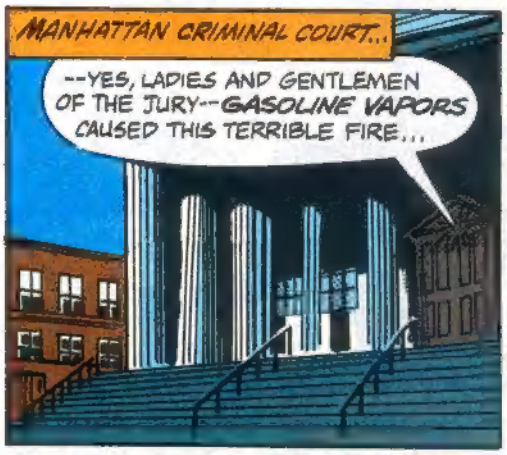
OUT. NOW.
MY SISTER'S IN THERE SOMEWHERE! YOU GOTTA HELP HER!
AIRBORNE
GET HIM OUT OF HERE.
RADAR SENSE BOUNCES OFF WALLS. A STANDARD, RECTANGULAR, BASEMENT GARAGE. STORAGE SHELVES TO HIS RIGHT. A WASHER/DRYER ALONG THE BACK WALL.
HUMAN? NO, NOT HUMAN. BUT ALIVE. HE HEARS... WHAT? LAUGHTER?
THE SISTER HAS CRAWLED BENEATH THEM.
BUT...
SOMETHING ELSE IS HERE.
MINE MINE MINE HEE HEE
PAIN PAIN MINE HEE HEE

WHAT ARE YOU?!
THE GARAGE GROWS QUIET. THE LAUGHTER STOPS, ITS SIREN WAIL DRIFTING OFF INTO NOTHINGNESS.
ENHANCED SENSES REACH OUT. NOTHING. WAS IT ONLY HIS IMAGINATION?
GO AWAY SHE IS MINE FOR PAIN FOR POWER
What--?!
THE LITTLE GIRL COUGHS. QUESTIONS LATER. ACTION NOW.
DIE REDMAN MORE PAIN BIGGER BETTER BIGGER FOR ME
ITS BREATH -- HOT, HEAVY -- SMOTHERING LAYER OF OZONE.
SURVIVAL INSTINCTS KICK IN, MUSCLES TENSE...
DROP..
...ROLL...

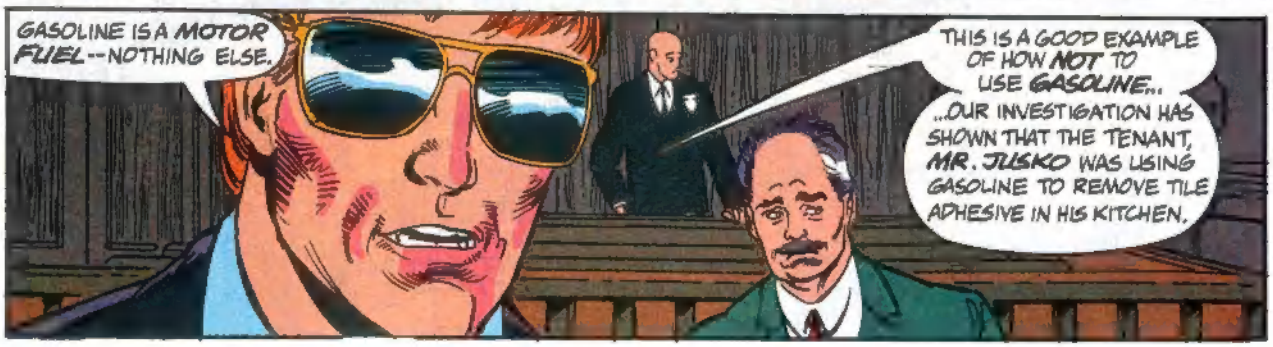
A HORRIBLE, GRINNING MASK HANGS OVERHEAD. LUNGS BEG FOR AIR AND ARE REWARDED WITH COOKED OXYGEN.
THE WORLD EXPLODES INTO A BALL OF FLAME AS HEAT, INTENSIFIES A THOUSANDFOLD BY HYPERACTIVATED NEURONS.
NO.
HOW DOES HE FIGHT THIS THING? HE IS NOT A SUPERNATURAL CREATURE. HE IS FLESH AND BLOOD--CARBON-BASED AND FLAMMABLE.
FIGHT FIRE...WITH WATER, BUT NOT CHEMICAL FIRES... THAT THING IS HEAVY WITH... GAS VAPORS...
...AIR... DISSIPATES VAPORS...IF I OPEN THE GARAGE DOOR... NO GOOD...TOO MUCH OXYGEN...
...CAUSE A BACKDRAFT...
CHILDOOMETOMEWELIVETOGETHERINPAINWEGROW STRONG
THIS END UP
RADAR PICKS UP THE SHAPE OF A FIRE EXTINGUISHER ON A SHELF.
MUSCLES AFIRE, EACH MOVE FIERY AGONY, HE INCHES FORWARD...

...PRAYING HE'S NOT TOO LATE...
WE ARE TOGETHER NOW YOU ARE MINE WE GROW STRONG
WAAAAY!
NOW GET AWAY YOU ARE TOO LATE SHE IS MINE
...PRAYING THAT IT'S A "B" TYPE EXTINGUISHER...
NO GET AWAY YOU ARE TOO LATE SHE IS MINE MINE
...PRAYING THAT IT'S NOT EMPTY...
...OR BROKEN.
SHE IS MINE THEY ARE ALL MINE YOU ARE ALL MIII

HNGH-HNGH
COUGH-COUGH
Whimper
Cough
SHHH, IT'S OKAY, IT'S OVER.
SSHHHH
COUGH hnghh COUGH-COUGH MOMMYMOMMY DADDYSETH COUGH hnghh
THEY'RE COMING, shhh! IT'S OKAY, DON'T CRY ANY-MORE, IT'S GONE, IT'S NOT COMING BACK. shhh, shhh
I PROMISE.
BUT HE WONDERS...


MANHATTAN CRIMINAL COURT..
--YES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY--GASOLINE VAPORS CAUSED THIS TERRIBLE FIRE...

...BUT MAYBE WE ARE TOO QUICK TO ACCUSE THE LANDLORD OF ARSON. MANY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW HOW DANGEROUS GASOLINE REALLY IS.
THESE PEOPLE TAKE BIG RISKS IN USING IT TO CLEAN THINGS--TO REMOVE THINGS.


GASOLINE IS A MOTOR FUEL--NOTHING ELSE.
THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW NOT TO USE GASOLINE..
..OUR INVESTIGATION HAS SHOWN THAT THE TENANT, MR. JUSKO WAS USING GASOLINE TO REMOVE TILE ADHESIVE IN HIS KITCHEN.

AND NOW LOOK AT THE SAD PRICE--HIS DAUGHTER IS BADLY BURNED AND ALL HIS FAMILY'S BELONGINGS ARE GONE!
BUT NOT EVEN LITTLE ANGEL JUSKO'S PARENTS BLAME ABRAHAM RUTKOWSKI.
HOW CAN YOU?
NOW WHAT?
NOW WE WAIT.
--NOT GUILTY.
CASE DISMISSED. Mr. RUTKOWSKI, YOU ARE FREE TO GO.
BANG
BANG
CONGRATULATIONS, ABRAHAM.
THANK YOU. THANK YOU.
HOW'S THE LITTLE GIRL DOING? ANGEL JUSKO?
WELL, IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG HAUL. THEY'RE GOING TO WEAN HER OFF THE RESPIRATOR NEXT WEEK. DOCTORS CAN DO SURGERY TO REVERSE SOME OF THE SCARRING. BUT SHE'LL NEED PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY.
BUT SHE'LL LIVE?
SHE'LL LIVE
ANGEL JUSKO WILL LIVE. ABRAHAM RUTKOWSKI WILL COLLECT HIS INSURANCE MONEY AND REBUILD. THE THING IN THE GARAGE IS GONE, DESTROYED.
BUT IT'S NOT. DAREDEVIL KNOWS IT'S NOT.
IT'S ONLY HIDING. BIDING ITS TIME, WAITING FOR ITS NEXT VICTIM. SPRING, SUMMER, WINTER, FALL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
IT'S ALWAYS THE SEASON FOR TEARS.
END

VEX THE VAPORS

Play It Safe With Gasoline

- Gasoline is a motor fuel! Never use it as a cleaner or to start a fire.
- Fill lawnmowers, motorbikes, power saws, ONLY when the motor is cool!
- Never use gasoline indoors.
- Never use gasoline near a heat or ignition source.
- Keep gasoline ONLY in an approved gasoline container. Make sure the container is tightly capped. Never store gasoline in plastic milk jugs or glass containers.
- Never fill gasoline containers to the top. Allow room for vapor expansion.
- Store gasoline in a safe container on a high shelf, in a cool place, AWAY from the house.

Specially designed and sponsored by the Water Heater Division of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association.

THE FUME OF DOOM

DAREDEVIL® VS. VAPORA™

"I'm invisible – you can't see me until it's too late."

"I love to leak out into a closed room."

"I can escape if a gasoline container is open or has a leak."

"I'm heavier than air and travel along the ground."

"I can travel from room to room, finding an ignition source."

gama

This educational program is sponsored by the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association in cooperation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

Daredevil and Vapora are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc.

COMIC © 1996 500M PRINTED IN U.S.A.